accident-prone areas; introduction of Area Traffic Control System to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic; prosecution of traffic violator through interceptors, Red Speed Check Camera and Simputer; monitoring of traffic through Traffic Monitoring System; *etc*.

Incessant rains in Tamil Nadu

1788. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incessant rain claimed many lives and caused an extensive damage to standing crops in Tamil Nadu recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Central team visited Tamil Nadu to make survey about the damage caused by rain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) to (d) As per the memorandum received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, heavy torrential rains due to cyclone during last week of November, 2008 resulted in floods, taking a toll of 186 human lives and 3942 cattle lives besides damage to agricultural and horticultural crops *e.g.* paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, coconut/oilpalm, over an area of 5.97 lakh ha in various parts of the State.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a memorandum projecting additional Central assistance amounting to Rs. 3789 crore for relief operations of immediate nature as well as undertaking permanent restoration in the affected areas. Upon receipt of the memorandum, an Inter-Ministerial Team was constituted for an on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds, which visited the State during 7-11th December, 2008. Further action will be taken on receipt of report of the Central Team.

Pending the processing of the memorandum of the State Government, advance releases of 2nd installment of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 2008-2009 amounting to Rs. 90.76 crore as well Central share of CRF for the year 2009-2010 amounting to Rs. 47.65 crore have been made on 12th December, 2008. Earlier, 1st installment of the Central share of CRF for the year 2008-2009, amounting to Rs. 90.76 crore was released on 10th April, 2008.

Request from States for funds under MPF

1789. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from various State Governments to sanction additional funds for modernisation of Police Force in view of increased terrorist activities and naxalite violence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) During the current financial year 2008-09, so far the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have sought additional funds, over and above the allocations made under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme), so as to meet their police modernization needs. Release of additional funds will, however, depend upon allocation of additional funds under the Scheme by Ministry of Finance at the Revised Estimates, 2008-09 stage and also on submission of utilization certificates in respect of funds released earlier upto 2006-07.

Crisis infrastructure to tackle terror attacks

1790. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to put in place a crisis infrastructure to tackle terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to deal with the challenges posed by the activities of terrorists/insurgents/extremists in various parts of the country, including measures on the political, security and development fronts. The various measures taken on the security fronts, *inter-alia,* include vigilance and patrolling on the borders to check infiltration and illegal cross-border activities, deployment of Central Forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence, heightened vigil and security arrangements in and around vital installations, strengthening of intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities, particularly at the cutting edge level, upgradation and modernization of Central and State Police Forces, assistance for raising India Reserve Battalions, including 2 Coys as Commando units with additional assistances for equipments, training *etc.*, re-imbursement of various types of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) to the State Governments, various initiatives at the bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation to deal with the global imperatives of terrorism. The Government has also decided to locate National Security Guards (NSG) Units in a few regional hubs and to draw upon the Commando Units of the Armed forces to create more regional hubs until a decision is taken to locate NSG Units in those hubs too; in principle decision has been taken to create a Coastal Command for overall supervision and coordination of maritime and coastal security; and it has been decided to set up 20 Counter-Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism schools in various parts of the country for imparting Commando training to State Police forces.

(c) Does not arise.